

MANAGEMENT AREA 3A (19,268 acres) - NON-ANADROMOUS RIPARIAN AREAS

1. Description

Management Area 3A consists of lakes, perennial streams and seasonally flowing streams; lands adjacent to lakes, perennial and seasonal streams, floodplains and wetlands; wet, moist areas such as meadows, springs, seeps, bogs, and wallows; and quaking aspen stands in watersheds that do not support anadromous fish. These areas shall correspond to at least the recognizable area dominated by riparian vegetation. Often the area is nearly flat, and may be subject to various degrees of flooding or saturation.

Streams and adjacent lands in this management area support populations of resident fish, and include all Class I, II, and III streams and adjacent lands where practices are modified to protect water quality and aquatic resources. Also included in this management area are those Class IV streams and upland riparian areas, such as seeps, springs, meadows and bogs, which have high water table conditions during some parts of the growing season. Class IV channels will be recognized as the important link between the uplands and the downslope perennial streams. They will be managed to ensure bank and channel stability. This will be determined from a site specific evaluation which will include the size of the area, plant and animal species present, and overall watershed condition.

Geographical boundaries of riparian areas are to be determined by on-site characteristics of soil and vegetation, but will be a minimum of 100 feet from the edge of all Class I, II, and III streams. All other riparian areas including Class IV streams and upland riparian areas will be identified and mapped during project planning and implementation. These Class IV and other riparian areas will have a variable width, depending on site specific needs for all riparian-dependent resources.

2. Goals

Manage riparian areas to protect and enhance their value for wildlife, resident fish habitat, and water quality. Manage timber, grazing, and recreation to give preferential consideration to riparian-dependent species on that portion of the management area "suitable" for timber management, grazing, or recreation. Design and conduct management in all riparian areas to maintain or improve water quality and beneficial uses

3. Standards

RESOURCE ELEMENT

STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter IV, Section E, of this Plan applies to this management area except where superseded by the following standards:

Recreation

- 1 Manage for recreation ranging from semiprimitive to roaded modified depending on the ROS objectives of the adjacent lands.
- 2 Limit and distribute use as necessary to protect and/or rehabilitate riparian areas.

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Visuals

3. Locate new recreational facilities outside of riparian areas. Maintain existing recreational sites to protect riparian-dependent resources
4. Meet visual quality objectives ranging from retention to modification depending on the visual quality objective of adjacent lands.

Fish and Wildlife

5. Provide the necessary habitat to maintain or increase populations of management indicator species: bull trout, cutthroat trout, and rainbow/redband trout.
6. Cooperate and coordinate with other agencies and groups to achieve the following objectives:
 - (a) Develop instream habitat improvement projects for resident fish species *with emphasis on cooperative projects with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bonneville Power Administration, Isaac Walton League, Trout Unlimited, and others, as appropriate.*
 - (b) Maintain adequate minimum flows for resident fish species. Coordinate with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in the identification of problems and the development of solutions.
7. Maintain dead and defective tree habitat capable of supporting at least 60% of the potential population of the management indicator species for primary excavators.
8. Manage the composition and productivity of key riparian vegetation to protect or enhance riparian-dependent resources. *Emphasis will be on the reestablishment of remnant hardwood shrub and tree communities*
- 9. Plan, design and implement riparian habitat improvement activities to upgrade riparian areas that are not in a condition to meet management objectives or the desired future condition.
10. Improve the rate of recovery in riparian areas that are not in a condition to meet management objectives by eliminating or reducing the impacts of management activities that may slow riparian recovery.
11. Maintain or enhance water quality and/or fish habitat through instream or riparian improvements. Implement instream activities outside of the spawning and egg incubation period.
12. Provide for input of large, woody debris into all classes of streams and evaluate to determine if objectives are being met. Remove material that causes unacceptable channel and/or bank damage.
13. Maintain or enhance wet meadow habitats that are used by greater sandhill cranes for nesting or feeding

14. Maintain non-stream associated riparian areas such as: seeps, springs, bogs and wallows together with their associated vegetative structure. Develop mitigation measures for management activities during project level environmental analysis.
- Range
- > 15. Grazing allotments with riparian areas in less than desirable condition will be identified and updated according to the schedule shown in Appendix A (Activity Schedule A-10) <
- > 16. Include in allotment management plans (AMPs) a strategy for managing riparian areas for a mix of resource uses. Establish a measurable desired future riparian condition based on existing and potential vegetative conditions. When the current riparian condition is less than that desired, objectives will include a schedule for improvement. AMPs will identify management actions needed to meet riparian objectives within specific time frames. Measurable objectives will be set for key parameters, such as amount of stream surface shaded, streambank stability, sedimentation, cover provided by trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses and grasslike vegetation. This process is described in "Managing Riparian Ecosystems (Zones) for Fish and Wildlife in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington" (1979). The AMP will specify the monitoring needed to determine if the desired rate of improvement is occurring. AMPs currently not consistent with this direction will be developed or revised on a priority basis as shown in Appendix A (Activity Schedule A-10). <
17. Using Activity Schedule A-10 and available funding, prepare Allotment Management Plans for every grazing allotment on the Malheur National Forest as soon as possible. This process will use information gathered through the range allotment analysis activity, including the analysis of the management situation. Prepare an allotment management plan for each allotment that provides the techniques to reach an agreed upon interdisciplinary desired future condition. Establish resource value ratings and the range resource management level needed to reach the desired future condition. Use Table IV-5 to establish utilization levels for grass/grasslikes and shrubs by range resource management level. Inventory existing conditions to determine if the riparian area is satisfactory or unsatisfactory.
18. Establish annual forage utilization requirements for each grazing allotment as a tool to achieve or maintain the desired condition. Use the forage utilization standards shown in Table IV-4, except where site-specific monitoring information shows that a higher level of utilization will achieve the desired future condition without delaying the rate of improvement. As a minimum, the desired condition must be "satisfactory."
- Employ all available methods to achieve the desired levels of utilization by permitted livestock and big game. In cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife establish riparian area carrying capacity of big-game. Limit game populations to the level necessary to achieve riparian objectives for all riparian resources. Special emphasis needs to be placed on big game riparian winter range management. <

Design the methods selected for controlled livestock use to fit the site-specific requirements for improving the riparian area to desirable condition. Any one or a combination of methods may be used to treat less than desirable riparian areas, such as corridor fencing, herding, additional water developments, salting, nonuse for resource protection, early and late season use, short-term grazing rather than season long, reduced livestock numbers, control of degree of use, and/or creating additional pastures through fencing.



19. Manage allotments to protect or enhance riparian-dependent resources.
20. Manage livestock grazing so that water quality meets Oregon State standards and fish populations are maintained at an acceptable condition or in an upward trend.
21. Maintain sufficient streamside vegetation to maintain streambank stability and fish habitat capability.
22. Restrict season long grazing, unless specifically evaluated and approved through the environmental analysis process.

TABLE IV-4

**Allowable Utilization of Available Forage in Riparian Areas
(Percent Allowable Use of Available Forage)**

Range Resource Management Level	Grass and Grasslikes ^{1/}		Shrubs ^{2/}	
	S ^{3/}	U ^{4/}	S	U
STRATEGY B - Stewardship Management^{5/}	40	0-30	30	0-25
STRATEGY C - Extensive Management^{6/}	45	0-35	40	0-30

^{1/}Utilization based on percent removed by weight

^{2/}Utilization based on weight and twig length. Example, if 2/3 of the available leader length is removed then browsed utilization is 50% (USDA-FS-PNW-RN-472, April 1988).

^{3/}S - Satisfactory condition - See glossary

^{4/}U - Unsatisfactory condition - See glossary

^{5/}Management controls livestock numbers so that livestock use is within present grazing capacity. Distribution is achieved through riding, herding, and/or salting. Improvements are minimal and constructed only to the extent needed to cost effectively maintain stewardship of the range in presence of grazing.

^{6/}Management seeks full utilization of forage available to livestock. Cost-effective management systems and techniques, including fencing and water development, are designed and applied to obtain relatively uniform livestock distribution and use of forage and to maintain plant vigor.

Timber

23. No scheduled timber harvest along Class I or II streams (minimum width 200 feet, or 100 feet either side of stream). These lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management.

24. No scheduled timber harvest will occur within the interior portions of the riparian area (minimum 66 feet) along Class III streams. This 66 foot interior corridor may straddle the stream or may occur on one side depending on site specific needs. These lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management. /
25. Timber harvest (non-scheduled) may occur within riparian areas classified as "unsuitable" for timber management in order to accomplish specific riparian resource objectives.
26. Schedule timber harvest on portions of the management area classified as "suitable" for timber management. Ensure that all timber harvests are subordinate to riparian-dependent resources.
27. Emphasize uneven-aged timber management, on riparian areas classified as "suitable" for timber management. Emphasize single tree selection in the ponderosa pine type and group selection in the mixed conifer and lodgepole pine types. Even-aged management may be applied in all timber types based on a site-specific silvicultural prescription which meets riparian management objectives.
28. When applying group selection harvests (uneven-aged management), do not create openings larger than one-half acre in size. Created openings in adjacent management areas may border openings in riparian areas. Limit the lineal distance of created openings to 150 feet or less, along Class III streams, while ensuring that adequate stream surface shading remains.
29. For any Class I, II, or III stream, limit the cumulative total acres of created openings to 10% of the total riparian acres along any given stream. /
30. Design timber harvesting activities along streams to provide for streambank stability and a future supply of large woody debris.
31. In upland riparian areas, design timber harvest activities to protect the integrity of these areas and provide for the riparian associated resources.
32. Keep mechanized equipment out of all stream channels and upland riparian areas. When stream channel crossings cannot be avoided, conduct harvesting activities at times of minimum flow, outside the fish spawning and egg incubation period, and at locations specifically designated on the ground where streambank and channel disturbances are minimized. Constructed temporary crossings, such as log and culvert installations, will require maintenance, removal and rehabilitation. /
33. No commercial or recreational firewood cutting will be permitted in riparian areas.
34. Emphasize natural regeneration but plant when needed to meet riparian management objectives.
35. Evaluate effects on wetlands and floodplains during project level environmental analysis.

Reforestation

Water, Soil, and Air

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36. Ensure that temperatures do not increase on Class I streams. Limit temperature increases on Class II and fish-bearing Class III streams to the quantitative criteria in Oregon State standards. Do not allow deterioration of water temperatures on Class III and IV streams when downstream Class I, II and fish-bearing Class III streams are affected.
37. Protect instream flow through critical analysis of all proposed water uses. Achieve instream flow protection by: (a) filing protests with States where applications are made that adversely affect National Forest resources; (b) asserting claims for this water under Federal or State laws where applicable; (c) inserting protection measures into special-use permits; or (d) reaching formal agreements over use. Purchase of water rights and impoundments are other means for reducing these impacts.

Minerals

38. Ensure that operating plans emphasize protection and/or mitigation of impacts to riparian-dependent species and that water quality standards are met through the application of BMPs.
39. Ensure that operating plans affecting resident fish habitat comply with Oregon standards pertaining to water quality and timing of instream activity.

Facilities

Roads

40. Avoid locating roads in riparian areas while providing adequate local road access for management activities (e.g., timber management, fisheries structural improvements, etc.). Minimize the density of open roads in this management area by obliterating, revegetating, or closing unnecessary roads or any roads causing significant resource damage.
41. Design and maintain roads to protect fisheries values and riparian area habitat.
42. Provide seasonal closures to reduce sedimentation.
43. Leave stream channels of Class I to IV streams undisturbed by roads, except for crossings. Minimize adverse impacts to water and fisheries resources when designing necessary crossings.
44. Apply erosion seeding on: (a) all disturbed soil that occurs within 100-200 feet of a Class I, II, III or IV stream or where eroded material could reach a stream; and (b) on compacted skid trails with slopes greater than 20%.
45. Maintain fish passage on fish-bearing streams unless passage obstruction is unavoidable and addressed during the project-level environmental analysis.
46. Mitigate unavoidable adverse impacts on floodplains or wetlands.

Trails

47. Construct and maintain trails to prevent environmental damage. Design reconstruction projects to mitigate sediment.

Protection

Residue Management

48. Manage residue profiles to maintain or enhance resident fish and wildlife habitat.

- 49 A site specific analysis is required for determining removal of activity-generated woody debris from all riparian areas unless nonremoval is specifically evaluated and approved in the project-level environmental analysis. Do not allow mechanized treatment of logging debris for site preparation or hazard reduction purposes in all riparian areas, unless evaluated and approved in a project-level environmental analysis. Burning of logging debris below the high waterline is prohibited
50. Use prescribed fire from planned ignitions to achieve forage production objectives
- Insects and Disease 51. Apply integrated pest management principles to minimize losses and protect riparian area values.

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4. Schedule of Management Practices

MANAGEMENT AREA 3A - SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Management Practice	Activity Code	Total Planned for Decade (1990-1999)
FISH AND WILDLIFE Fish Habitat Improvements ^{1/}	CI221	300 Structures
TIMBER Timber Harvest ^{2/} Commercial Thin Clearcut Shelterwood - Seed Tree Cut Selection Overstory Removal on Existing Stands Salvage/Other Products Total Timber Harvest Reforestation Planting Natural Timber Stand Improvement Precommercial Thinning	 ET12 ET12 ET12 ET12 ET12 ET12 ET12 ET24 ET24 ET25	 0 MMBF/0 Ac 1.0 MMBF/145 Ac 0 MMBF/0 Ac 14.7 MMBF/2,179 Ac 0 MMBF/0 Ac .8 MMBF/Ac N/A 15.5 MMBF/2,324 Ac 472 Ac 545 Ac 1,307 Ac

^{1/}These activities will also occur in Management Area 14. They are listed here because it is expected that most of the activity will occur within this management area.

^{2/}Incidental amounts of these timber management activities may occur in categories where 0 appears. Retain trees needed for streambank stability, future input of large woody debris, stream temperature control, and wildlife habitat.